

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 00558 01 OF 02 301519Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-04 /079 W
-----089017 301546Z /53

R 301605Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 325
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 0558

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF
SUBJECT: BACK TO SCHOOL IN THE REEF TOWNSHIPS

REF: JOHANNESBURG 0120

1. SUMMARY: POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS ON THE REEF OPEN WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK WITH THE QUESTION OF RETURNING TO SCHOOL STILL UNSETTLED IN THE STUDENT RANKS. SOME STUDENT LEADERS FEEL THEY MUST NOW CHANGE TACTICS, GET BACK IN SCHOOL AND LOOK AT "THE REVOLUTION" IN THE LONG TERM. OTHERS ARE ADAMANT THAT UNTIL BANTU EDUCATION IS CHANGED THE BOYCOTTS SHOULD CONTINUE. COMMUNITY AND PARENTAL PRESSURES ALSO PULL THE STUDENTS IN DIFFERING DIRECTIONS. THIS SITUATION LEAVES A POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE WITHIN THE TOWNSHIPS AND ONLY TIME WILL TELL WHICH DIRECTION THE STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY HAVE CHOSEN. END SUMMARY.

2. POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE REEF TOWNSHIPS REOPEN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRETOR 00558 01 OF 02 301519Z

THE FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY, MOST OF THEM ON FEBRUARY 1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, PRIMARY SCHOOLS HAVE GONE BACK ALREADY AND VERY LITTLE TROUBLE HAS BEEN REPORTED. THE TOWNSHIPS MUST STILL FACE, HOWEVER, THE RETURN OF THE SECONDARY STUDENTS AMONGST WHOM THE POTENTIAL FOR CONTINUED BOYCOTTS AND DISRUPTIONS IS FAR STRONGER. AS REPORTED REFTEL, THERE ARE MANY FACTORS WORKING FOR

A RELATIVELY TROUBLE-FREE RETURN TO SCHOOL IN SOWETO AND THE PRETORIA TOWNSHIPS WHERE THE FOCUS OF STUDENT ACTIVISM HAS BEEN. THESE INCLUDE THE EROSION OF POLITICAL ACTIVISM BY THE FRUSTRATION AND BOREDOM OF AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF INACTIVITY FOR MOST STUDENTS; AND THE BREAKDOWN OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH DUE TO THE BANNINGS AND DETENTIONS OF LEADERSHIP ELEMENTS, INTERNAL POLITICAL RIVALRIES, AND THE CLOSING OF SCHOOLS WHICH WERE OFTEN THE ORGANIZATIONAL FOCAL POINT.

3. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, FACTORS AT PLAY IN BOTH SOWETO AND THE PRETORIA TOWNSHIPS THAT MAKE THE LIKELIHOOD OF A SMOOTH SECONDARY SCHOOL OPENING STILL TENUOUS. THESE MAINLY FOCUS ON THE DETERMINATION OF MORE RADICAL GROUPS OF STUDENTS TO SEE THE CONTINUATION OF THE BOYCOTT. A GOOD EXAMPLE IS THE SITUATION IN ATTERIDGEVILLE WHERE THE SECONDARY STUDENTS ARE IN THE MIDST OF TOWNSHIP WIDE DEBATES WHICH MANY TELL US WILL PROBABLY SPILL OVER INTO VIOLENCE. SOURCES FROM ATTERIDGEVILLE STUDENT RANKS SAY THAT A GROUP OF STUDENTS THERE HAVE NOW DECIDED THAT THE CONTINUATION OF THE BOYCOTT IS NEITHER EFFECTIVE NOR CONSTRUCTIVE, AS THEY ARE LOSING SO MUCH GROUND IN EDUCATION AND THEY MUST NOW LOOK AT THE REVOLUTION IN THE LONG-TERM. PRESS REPORTS HAVE INDICATED THAT THIS GROUP, LED BY KGATHI SATHEKGE, HAS PUBLICLY URGED AN END TO THE BOYCOTT. SATHEKGE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PRETOR 00558 01 OF 02 301519Z

CONFIRMS THIS BUY SAYS THAT HIS VIEWS ARE NOT UNANIMOUS AND THAT HE IS NOW BEING THREATENED BY MORE MILITANT STUDENTS. OTHER SOURCES TELL US THAT THE MILITANT GROUP IS LARGE AND IS FIRM IN ITS INTENT TO DISRUPT THE SCHOOL OPENING. WE ARE AWARE OF SEVERAL INCIDENTS ALREADY OF STONINGS AND BEATINGS OF PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN WHO ARE INTENT ON GOING BACK TO SCHOOL. APPARENTLY A MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS TOOK PLACE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE LOCAL ADVISORY BOARD OF BLACK ADULTS ON THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 21. PRESS REPORTING ON THAT MEETING STATES THAT THE STUDENTS HAVE DECIDED TO RETURN TO SCHOOL; HOWEVER, OUR SOURCES SAY THE ISSUE IS BY NO MEANS SETTLED AND THAT ANOTHER MEETING BETWEEN THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES IS PLANNED THIS WEEK. ODDLY ENOUGH, THE PRESENT SRC LEADERSHIP IS PLAYING NO ROLE IN THIS CONFRONTATION. SATHEKGE IS A FORMER SRC PRESIDENT AND STILL EXECUTIVE MEMBER BUT IS ACTING INDEPENDENTLY. THE SRC APPARENTLY HAS OPTED OUT BECAUSE OF A LACK OF AGGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP AND ITS OWN MIXED VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT OF SCHOOL RETURN. STUDENT LEADERS FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE ISSUE AGREE ON ONLY ONE THING, THAT VIOLENCE IS LIKELY AS THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS REOPEN

IN ATTERIDGEVILLE THIS WEEK.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 00558 02 OF 02 301533Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /075 W
-----089095 301545Z /53

R 301605Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 326
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PRETORIA 0558

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

4. THE OTHER PRETORIA TOWNSHIPS SEEM NOT SO POLARIZED, BUT SOME SOURCES FEEL GARANKUWA AND MABOPANE MAY FACE DISRUPTIONS OVER A DIFFERENT ISSUE, THEIR INCORPORATION INTO THE BOPHUTHATSWANA EDUCATION SYSTEM. IRONICALLY, THE INDEPENDENCE OF BOPHUTHATSWANA HAS OFFICIALLY TAKEN THOSE TWO TOWNSHIPS OUT OF THE BANTU EDUCATION SYSTEM, BUT MANY OF THE STUDENTS APPARENTLY FEEL THAT THEY NOW HAVE AN EVEN WORSE EVIL ON THEIR HANDS. PRESS REPORTS HAVE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE BOPHUTHATSWANA AUTHORITIES HAVE SAID THEY ARE CONSCIOUS OF STUDENT GRIEVANCES AND HOPE TO ADDRESS THEM IN THE FUTURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AUTHORITIES HAVE STATED THEY WOULD BROOK NO STUDENT DISRUPTIONS. THESE MOVES COMBINED WITH THE RELATIVE LACK OF ORGANIZATION IN GARANKUWA AND MABOPANE, MAY COMBINE TO INSURE A RELATIVELY NORMAL SCHOOL RETURN THIS YEAR.

5. SOWETO AND THE OTHER REEF TOWNSHIPS SEEM TO BE RIFE WITH JUST AS MUCH DIVIDED OPINION IN THE STUDENT RANKS AS EVIDENCED IN ATTERIDGEVILLE. IRONICALLY,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRETOR 00558 02 OF 02 301533Z

SOWETO, WHERE THE BOYCOTTS HAVE BEEN THE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN THE PAST, MAY HAVE A GREATER PROBLEM WITH STUDENT ORGANIZATION THAN OTHER TOWNSHIPS BECAUSE OF ITS SHEER SIZE, BOTH NUMERICALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY. THIS INCREASES THE DIVISIONS, THEREBY MORE EFFECTIVELY NEUTRALIZING EFFORTS AT REINSTITUTING THE ORGANIZATIONAL BASE. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT THE NEWLY FORMED SOWETO STUDENTS LEAGUE (JOHANNESBURG 0134) HAS DECLARED A CONTINUATION OF THE BOYCOTT AND LAST WEEK VISITED PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND URGED STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TO OBSERVE THE BOYCOTT. REPORTS STATE THAT THESE THREATS HAVE MET SOME SUCCESS. IN ALEXANDRA, ON JANUARY 26, THE ALEXANDRA STUDENT'S LEAGUE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUED BOYCOTT. THIS FOLLOWED AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY SCHOOL OFFICIALS THAT ONLY CHILDREN WHO ALONG WITH THEIR PARENTS SIGN AN ADMISSION FORM WOULD BE ALLOWED TO RETURN. THIS FORM COMMITS THE STUDENTS AND PARENTS TO SUBMIT TO SCHOOL RULES AND DISCIPLINE AND, AMONG OTHER THINGS, BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGE CAUSE BY THE STUDENT.

COMMENT: THERE IS MUCH COMMUNITY PRESSURE IN ALL THE TOWNSHIPS TO RETURN TO NORMAL BUT THE STUDENT REACTIONS ARE STILL MIXED AND THE POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE EXISTS. EACH TOWNSHIP IS DIFFERENT WITH A DYNAMISM ALL ITS OWN, BUT STILL THE CONTRASTING PRESSURES ARE THERE. UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ONE GROUP OR ANOTHER BECOMES PREDOMINANT, THERE ARE LIKELY TO BE INCIDENTS OF INTIMIDATION AND VIOLENCE. THIS WILL VARY IN INTENSITY IN THE DIFFERENT TOWNSHIPS, AS WAS THE CASE LAST YEAR, BUT WILL PROBABLY BE PRESENT IN ALL AS THE SCHOOL YEAR BEINGS. ONLY TIME WILL TELL WHICH SOCIETAL FORCES WILL WIN OUT AND WHAT THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PRETOR 00558 02 OF 02 301533Z

DIRECTION OF THE STUDENT MOVEMENT WILL BE IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS TO COME.

BOWDLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCHOOLS, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR00558
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780044-0472
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978017/aaaaafyj.tel
Line Count: 214
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ce3ffce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 JOHANNESBURG 120
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3784910
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BACK TO SCHOOL IN THE REEF TOWNSHIPS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ce3ffce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014